SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL. [Charter granted by William III]. (*Colophon:*) London: Printed by Charles Bill, and the Executrix of Thomas Newcomb . . . 1701.

Folio, 2 *leaves, with the Royal Arms at the head of the first page; a good copy in brown panelled levant morocco, gilt edges, by Sangorski & Sutcliffe.* 1701

EXTREMELY RARE; we know of only one other copy, in the Huntington Library. This is the first printed edition of the Society's Charter, including among the names of its foundation members such men as Thomas Bray and White Kennett. The Charter was granted on June 15th, 1701, and at the opening meeting of the Society on June 27th an order was made for the printing of 500 copies.

C.133.g:2.

England — Church of England — Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Part

WILLIAM the Third, By the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all Christian People, to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

I. Whereas We are credibly Informed, That in many of Our Plantations, Colonies and Factories beyond the Seas, belonging to Our Kingdom of England, the Provision for Ministers is very Mean, and many other of Our said Plantations, Colonies and Factories are wholly Destitute and Unprovided of a Maintenance for Ministers, and the Publick Worship of God, and for lack of Support and Maintenance for such, many of Our Loving Subjects do want the Administration of Gods Word and Sacraments, and seem to be Abandoned to Atheism and Infidelity; And also for want of Learned and Orthodox Ministers to Instruct Our said Loving Subjects in the Principles of true Religion, divers Romish Priests and Jesuits are the more Encouraged to Pervert and Draw over Our said Loving Subjects to Popish Superstition and Idolatry.

That a Maintenance for an Orthodox Clergy, and other Provision may be made for the Propagation of the Gospel in the Plantations beyond the Seas.

II. And whereas We think it Our Duty as much as in Us lieth, to Promote the Glory of God, by the Instruction of Our People in the Christian Religion; and that it will be highly Conducive for Accomplishing those Ends, that a sufficient Maintenance be provided for an Orthodox Clergy to live amongst them, and that such other Provision be made as may be Necessary for the Propagation of the Gospel in those Parts.

III. And whereas We have been well Assured, That if We would be graciously pleased to Erect and Settle a Corporation for the Receiving, Managing and Disposing of the Charity of Our loving Subjects, divers Persons would be Induced to Extend their Charity to the Uses and Purposes aforesaid.

His Majesty Incorporates the Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and 93 others, by the Name of *the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts*.

IV. Know ye therefore, That We have for the Considerations aforesaid, and for the better and more Orderly carrying on the said Charitable Purposes, of Our special Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, Willed, Ordained, Constituted and Appointed, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Do Will, Ordain, Constitute, Declare and Grant, That the most Reverend Father in God, Thomas Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, and John Lord Archbishop of York, the Right Reverend Fathers in God, Henry Lord Bishop of London, William Lord Bishop of Worcester, Our Lord Almoner, Simon Lord Bishop of Ely, Thomas Lord Bishop of Rochester, Dean of Westminster, and the Lords Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Bishops of London and Ely, the Lord Almoner and Dean of Westminster, for the time being, Edward Lord Bishop of Gloucester, John Lord Bishop of Chichester, Nicholas Lord Bishop of Chester, Richard Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, Humphrey Lord Bishop of Bangor, John Montague Doctor of Divinity, Clerk of Our Closet, William Sherlock Doctor of Divinity, Dean of St. Pauls, William Stanley Doctor of Divinity, Arch-Deacon of

London, and the Clerk of Our Closet, of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, the Dean of St. Pauls, and Arch-Deacon of London, for the time being; The two Regius and two Margaret Professors of Divinity of both Our Universities, for the time being, Thomas Earl of Thanet, Thomas Lord Viscount Weymouth, Francis Lord Guilford, William Lord Digby, Sir Tho. Cookes of Bently, Sir Richard Bulkley, Sir John Philips, and Sir Arthur Owen, Baronets; Sir Humphrey Mackworth, Sir William Prichard, Sir William Russell, Sir Edmund Turner, Sir William Hustler, Sir John Chardin, and Sir Richard Blackmore, Kts. John Hook Esq; Serjeant at Law, George Hooper Doctor of Divinity, Dean of Canterbury, George Booth Doctor of Divinity, Arch-Deacon of Durham, Sir George Wheeler, Prebendary of Durham, William Beveridge Doctor of Divinity, Arch-Deacon of Colchester Sir William Dawes Baronet, Thomas Manningham, Edward Gee, Tho. Lynford, Nathaniel Resbury, Offspring Blackhall, George Stanhope, William Hayley, and Richard Willis, Doctors of Divinity, and Our Chaplains in Ordinary, John Mapletoft, Zacheus Isham, John Davis, William Lancaster, Humphrey Hodey, Richard Lucas, John Evans, Tho. Bray, John Gascarth, White Kennett, Lilly Butler, Josiah Woodward, Doctors in Divinity, Gideon Harvey, and Frederick Slare, Doctors of Physick; Rowland Cotton, Tho. Jervois, Maynard Colchester, James Vernon Junior, Joseph Neal, Grey Nevill, Tho. Clerk, Peter King, Rock, John Comins, William Melmouth, Tho. Bromfeild, John Reynolds, Dutton Seaman, Whitlock Bulstrode, Samuel Brewster, John Chamberlain, Richard King, and Daniel Nicoll Esqs; Benjamin Lawdell, John Trimmer, Charles Toriano, and John Hodges Merchants; William Fleetwood, William Whitfeild, and Samuel Bradford, Masters of Arts, and Our Chaplains in Ordinary, Tho. Little Batchelor in Divinity, Tho. Staino, Henry Altham, William Lloyd, Henry Shute, Tho. Frank, and William Mecken Clerks, and their Successors, to be Elected in manner as hereafter directed, be, and shall for ever hereafter be, and by Virtue of these Presents shall be one Body Politick and Corporate, in Deed and in Name, by the Name of The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts: And them and their Successors by the same Name, We do by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, really and fully Make, Ordain, Constitute and Declare, One Body Politick and Corporate in Deed and in Name.

To have perpetual Succession.

V. And that by the same Name, they and their Successors shall and may have perpetual Succession.

To purchase 2000 *l. per Ann.* Inheritance, and Estates for Lives or Years, Goods and Chattels of any value.

VI. And that they and their Successors, by that Name, shall and may for ever hereafter be Persons Able and Capable in the Law to Purchase, Have, Take, Receive, and Enjoy to them and their Successors, Manors, Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Advowsons, Liberties, Privileges, Jurisdictions, Franchises, and other Hereditaments whatsoever, of whatsoever Nature, Kind and Quality they be, in Fee and in Perpetuity, not exceeding the Yearly Value of Two thousand Pounds, beyond Reprizals, and also Estates for Lives and for Years, and all other manner of Goods, Chattels, and Things whatsoever, of what Name, Nature, Quality, or Value soever they be, for the better Support and Maintenance of an Orthodox Clergy in Foreign Parts, and other the Uses aforesaid; And to Give, Grant, Lett and Demise the said Manors, Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Goods, Chattels, and things whatsoever aforesaid, by Lease or Leases, for Term of Years, in Possession at the time of Granting thereof, and not in Reversion, not exceeding the Term of One and Thirty Years from the time of Granting thereof; on which, in Case no Fine be taken, shall be Reserved the full Value; and in Case a Fine be taken, shall be Reserved at least a Moiety of the full Value, that the same shall reasonably and bona fide be worth at the time of such Demise.

And to Grant or Demise for 31 years in Possession only without Fine at the full Rent, or with Fine at the Moiety of the full value.

And by that Name to Plead and be Impleaded.

VII. And that by the Name aforesaid, they shall, and may be able to Plead and be Impleaded, Answer and be Answered unto, Defend and be Defended, in all Courts and Places whatsoever, and before whatsoever Judges, Justices, or other Officers of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, in all and singular Actions, Plaints, Pleas, Matters and Demands, of what Kind, Nature or Quality soever they be; And to

Act

Act and do all other Matters and Things, in as ample Manner and Form as any other Our Liege Subjects of this Our Realm of England, being Persons able and capable in the Law, or any other Body Corporate or Politick within this Our Realm of England, can, or may have, purchase, receive, possess, take, enjoy grant, set, let, demise, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, do, permit and execute.

VIII. And that the said Society for ever hereafter, shall and may have a common Seal, to serve for the Causes and Business of them and their Successors: And that it shall and may be lawful for them and their Successors, to change, break, alter, and make New the said Seal from time to time, and at their Pleasure, as they shall think best.

And that the said Society shall have a Common Seal.

IX. And for the better Execution of the Purposes aforesaid, We do give and grant to the said Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and their Successors, That they, and their Successors for ever, shall upon the third Friday in February yearly, meet at some convenient Place, to be appointed by the said Society, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any General Meeting, between the Hours of Eight and Twelve in the Morning; And that they or the major Part of such of them that shall then be present, shall Choose one President, One, or more Vice-President, or Vice-Presidents, One, or more Treasurer, or Treasurers, Two, or more Auditors, One Secretary, and such other Officers, Ministers and Servants, as shall be thought convenient, to serve in the said Offices for the Year ensuing: And that the said President, and Vice-Presidents, and all Officers then elected, shall before they act in their respective Offices, take an Oath, to be to them administred by the President, or in his absence, by one of the Vice-Presidents of the Year preceeding, who are hereby Authorized to Administer the same, for the faithful and due Execution of their Respective Offices, and Places during the said Year.

And yearly meet, on the Third *Friday* in *February* between 8 and 12 in the morning.

To choose a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, one or more Treasurers, two or more Auditors, one Secretary, and other Officers for the Year ensuing: Who shall take Oath for due Execution of Office.

X. And Our further Will and Pleasure is, That the first President of the said Society, shall be Thomas by Divine Providence Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate and Metropolitan of all England: And that the said President shall within thirty Days after the passing of this Charter, cause Summons to be issued to the several Members of the said Society herein particularly mentioned, to meet at such Time and Place as he shall appoint: And that they, or the major Part of such of them as shall then be present, shall proceed to the Election of One, or more Vice-President, or Vice-Presidents, One, or more Treasurer, or Treasurers, Two, or more Auditors, One Secretary, and such other Officers, Ministers, and Servants, as to them shall seem meet; which said Officers, from the time of their Election into their Respective Offices, shall continue therein until the third Friday in February, which shall be in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand seven Hundred and One; And from thence forwards until others shall be chosen into their Places, in manner aforesaid.

That *Thomas* Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury* be the first President, who in 30 days after the Charter passed, shall issue Summons to the Members of the Society to meet and Elect Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, Auditors, Secretary, and other Officers, to continue till the Third *Friday* in *February* 1701.

XI. And that if it shall happen that any of the Persons at any time chosen into any of the said Offices shall Die, or, on any Account be removed from such Office at any time between the said yearly Days of Election, That in such Case it shall be lawful for the surviving and continuing President, or any One of the Vice-Presidents, to issue Summons to the several Members of the Body Corporate, to meet at the usual Place of the Annual Meeting of the said Society, at such Time as shall be specified in the said Summons; and that such Members of the said Body Corporate who shall meet upon such Summons, or the major Part of them, shall, and may choose an Officer, or Officers into the Room or Place of such Person or Persons, so Dead or Removed, as to them shall seem meet.

And if any Officer die, or be removed, the President, or one of the Vice-Presidents may Summon the Members of the Society to meet and choose another in his place.

XII. And We do further Grant unto the said Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and their Successors, That they, and their Successors shall and may, on the third Friday in every Month yearly, for ever hereafter, and oftner, if Occasion requires, meet at some convenient Place to be appointed for that Purpose, to transact the Business of the said Society, and shall, and may at any Meeting on such

And that the said Society meet to Transact Business on the Third *Friday* in every Month, or oftner if need be.

And at such Monthly Meeting, may Elect such Members of the Corporation as they see fit.

such third Friday in the Month, Elect such Persons to be Members of the said Corporation, as they, or the major Part of them then present, shall think beneficial to the Charitable Designs of the said Corporation.

But no Act of the Society shall be valid, unless the President, or some Vice-President, and Seven other Members, be present, and the Majority of them consenting thereto.

XIII. And Our Will, and Pleasure is, That no Act done in any Assembly of the said Society, shall be Effectual and Valid, unless the President, or some One of the Vice-Presidents, and Seven other Members of the said Company at the least, be present, and the major Part consenting thereunto.

And at the first or second Meeting of the said Society, and any Meeting on the Third Friday in *November*, *February*, *May*, and *August* for ever, the major part present may make By-Laws and Execute Leases.

XIV. And We further Will, and by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, do Ordain, and Grant unto the said Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and their Successors, That they, or their Successors, or the major Part of them who shall be present at the first, or second Meeting of the said Society, or at any Meeting on the third Friday in the Months of November, February, May, and August yearly for ever, and at no other Meetings of the said Society, shall, and may consult, determine, constitute, ordain and make any Constitutions, Laws, Ordinances and Statutes whatsoever; As also, to execute Leases for Years, as aforesaid, which to them, or the major Part of them then present, shall seem reasonable, profitable, or requisite, for, touching or concerning the Good Estate, Rule, Order and Government of the said Corporation, and the more effectual Promoting the said Charitable Designs; All which Laws, Ordinances and Constitutions, so to be made, ordained and established, as aforesaid, We Will, Command and Ordain by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, to be from time to time, and at all times hereafter, kept and performed in all things, as the same ought to be, on the Penalties and Amerciaments in the same to be imposed and limited, so as the same Laws, Constitutions, Ordinances, Penalties and Amerciaments be reasonable and not repugnant, or contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this Our Realm of England.

And the said Society at any Meeting may Depute fit Persons to take Subscriptions, and Collect Money contributed for the Purposes aforesaid.

XV. And We do likewise Grant unto the said Society for Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and their Successors, That they, and their Successors, or the major Part of such of them as shall be present at any Meeting of the said Society, shall have Power from time to time, and at all times hereafter, to depute such Persons as they shall think fit, to take Subscriptions, and to gather and collect such Money as shall be by any Person or Persons contributed for the Purposes aforesaid.

And may cause publick Notification of this Charter.

XVI. And shall, and may remove and displace such Deputies as often as they shall see Cause so to do, and to cause publick Notification to be made of this Charter, and the Powers thereby granted, in such manner as they shall think most conducible to the Furtherance of the said Charity.

And shall yearly give account to the Lord Chancellour or Keeper, and two Chief Justices, or two of them, of all Moneys received and laid out.

XVII. And Our further Will and Pleasure is, That the said Society shall yearly, and every Year, give an Account in Writing to Our Lord Chancellour, or Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England for the time being, the Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, or any Two of them, of the several Sum, or Sums of Money by them received and laid out by Virtue of these Presents, or any Authority hereby given, and of the Management and Disposition of the Revenues and Charities aforesaid.

And Lastly, Our Will and Pleasure is, That these Our Letters Patents, or the Inrolment thereof, shall be good, firm, valid, and effectual in the Law, according to Our Royal Intentions herein before declared. In Witness whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patents, Witness Our Self at Westminster the sixteenth Day of June, in the Thirteenth Year of Our Reign.

Per Breve de privato Sigillo.

COCKS.

LONDON:

Printed by *Charles Bill*, and the Executrix of *Thomas Newcomb*, deceas'd; Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1701.